BULLETIN from

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F I C T I O N

MUST BOOKS

January 29

Ferber, Edna — GREAT SON — Doubleday, Doran

Sure popularity - but not a particularly distinguished addition to her reputation - this rather old-fashioned three decker with plush trim which makes good reading and supplies a plausible cross section of the elements of pioneer America which went into the makings of such families as the Melendys. The setting is Seattle - the time spans back from the period preceding Pearl Harbor to the earliest pioneers, among whom was the matriach of the family, Madam Exact Melendy, now in her '90's and exulting in her position. There's Vaughan, her son, with his dull proper wife, Emmy, whose sole claim to fame is that her mother was one of the "Mercer girls", hardy New England spinsters who braved the Horn to seek a husband on a new frontier. There's Dike, son of Vaughan by the woman he loved, Pansy, whose story as a show girl in gold rush days in Alaska was - for me - the best part of the book. There's Dike's wife, Lina, stage-struck and rarely home, and her son, Mike, completely of the modern, disillusioned, airminded generation. Until he met Reggie Dresden, German refugee, companion to Madam, he had not met his mate. Together they were in tune with their world, and ready . when Pearl Harbor struck, - ready in sharp contrast to the complacent isolationism of the rest of the family, cushioned in wealth and security. Through the ramifications of the Melendy saga, woven with sure craftsmanship, one is given a segment of America. Edna Ferber has built her Seattle background, from the vantage ground of the hill, and the luxury - sated lives of the Melendy's with full panoplied detail. Occasional glimpses into other lives suggest emphasis on a world that cannot return. Literary Guild - February. $2.50

Note: - January material sparse - no further December items. A new Thirkell, THE HEAD-MISTRESS (Knopf) for her special market. With the next issue, we hope to get well into the new year's output. New Index Sheets are in the mail - start your 1945 indexes with the December 1st issue.

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - Fiction

January 15

Thirkell, Angela — THE HEADMISTRESS — Knopf

Another segment of the tapestry of English social, domestic and family life, whose muted and gentle tones supply pleasant relief. Here are the Beltons who have been forced to lease their home to the Hosiers' Girls' Foundation School: Miss Sparling, the headmistress, wise and very acceptable, who charms away any resentment the Beltons may cherish; there's Mr. Oriel, the vicar, and Mr. Carton, an Oxford don; there are Freddy and Elsa Belton, home on leave from military and war jobs; there's Captain Hornby, whose home the Beltons are leasing and who gets engaged to Elsa; and there's a typical Thirkell assortment of Harefield residents who combine tea and working

parties and seasonal festivities with highly individual activities. There is trouble over a crush one of the school-girls conceives for Freddy; over a school play; ice-skating; Charles' being sent abroad; over transfer of property, etc. Small talk - attractive trivia - leisurely pace. $2.50

~~January 25~~ 2/21

Parkhill, Forbes TROOPERS WEST Farrar & Rinehart

Good action, plotting and characters, for an account of the hopeless situation in which the 3rd Cavalry landed when sent to keep order for an Indian Agent, who needed help when the Utes rebelled against his methods. The Custer massacre three years before was a warning to all. Young Lt. MacArthur is allowed to visit the Agent - unarmed - but fails to secure a parley with the Utes, and while he is on the reservation, the uprising occurs, the Indians led by a renegade white man. MacArthur and the surviving whites escape to join his company; messengers are sent to the Post for help; a Negro detachment breaks through the surrounding Indians - but proves a problem rather than an aid; one messenger is killed, the Indian Agent offers himself as a living sacrifice, in vain. Food and medicine give out and the group, growing smaller and smaller, are bound closer as all hope dies. One message, by devious routes, gets through - too late...Plus sale for true-western market, but primarily frontier historical fiction field. Plus Ross Santee $2.75 ✓

~~Late~~ Jan~~uary~~ ~~30~~ - 2/21

Shay, Edith & ~~Dos Passos,~~ Smith Katharine ~~ACROSS THE WESTERN OCEAN~~ The Private Adventure of Captain Shaw Houghton, Mifflin

A story of young Captain Philander Shaw of America's infant merchant marine, and of his adventures in Revolutionary France, where he was forced to await settlement of illegal seizure of his cargo and vessel. At home in Cape Cod, he had left his widowed mother and the girl he'd asked to wait for him; in France, at the home of the patriot, Thomas Paine, he meets Lucile, lovely French aristocrat, with democratic leanings, whose perilous position and apparent helplessness wins his worship. When he helps her escape, in disguise, he writes Tam seeking release from his vows, but on his return to New England, he finds that Lucile had not availed herself of his offer, but had stayed behind in France. And, by slow degrees, he finds that, after all, it is Tam he loves. The value of the book lies chiefly in the picture one gets of the impact of Revolutionary France on a young American patriot. The style is rather labored . The constant injection of French phrases is annoying - the characterization not particularly significant - but the story itself carries one along. $2.50

Late Comers for 1944

Lyttle, Jean SHEILA LACEY Creative Age

Amatory, emotional to mystic touches for the life story of Irish born Sheila, whose incredible career is as unpredictable as was Sheila herself. Born with the gift of sight, she meets ridicule as a child and decides to go into a convent, but finds she has no vocation. She leaves with her sister for London and the stage, despite its reputation of dubious respectability. She stays clear of immorality until she meets Sunny, whose genius and his homosexual past have made him famous. Guided by her inner vision, and feeling sure that she can free him, she marries him. But his past catches up with him, and he is killed by Geoffrey. Sheila turns, then, to nursing in the war, she goes into psychatric work, helps a Mexican-American flier to recovery, falls in love and marries him. *C'est ça!* (Nov. 27) $2.50

Graves, Robert WIFE TO MR. MILTON Creative Age

There's a strange fascination in this unusual story of the sixteen year old girl who became the wife of the famous poet - it's a holding story despite its

deliberately archaic style, for it is told as if recounted by the girl herself in the diary which alone she kept inviolate from her arrogant husband's determination to possess her, body and soul. Born to a Cavalier household, a large family with nothing but debts to sustain the colorful and extravagant life they led in a hunting county - Marie Powell was practically "sold" to John Milton, almost twice her age, whose debt her father could not meet. One gets an extraordinarily vivid sense of the passing show - one is thrust into the intricacies of the Civil Wars. But the chief interest in the book is in its penetrating study of one of the strangest marriages in history. John Milton thrust his lovely bride forth, the marriage unconsummated, after a few weeks; a stubborn determination to keep her identity, plus the wars, kept them apart; but at the end of three years, for the sake of her family, she returned to him, and submitted to his will. Only one tiny segment of herself she kept apart - her early and undying love for "Mun", childhood sweetheart, whom she met but once again after her wretched marriage. Robert Graves, author of *I. Claudius*, has the gift for fleshing the bare bones of history. This isn't a book for a wide general market, but discriminating readers will find it a real discovery. (Nov. 22) $2.75

Heal, Edith THIS VERY SUN Crown

A queer, morbid and rather unpleasant book, this tale of Burd, an arthritic, dying slowly in the Arizona which should have saved his life, and of his final clutch at a chance to make a dream reality. An eccentric photographer, Perry K., thrown off emotional balance by war experiences, is sent out to the resort town to get some photographs of "cool flesh against the sun" - and enlists the aid of the arthritic cripple. Despairing of securing models from proper walks of life, Burd makes a deal with a madame for three of her girls; he loses Perry K. temporarily to the erotic, lost Flick; he is himself rescued by Justine, who has shielded him in his illness. The photographing stunt comes off as planned, but ends with madness as Perry K.'s nerves crack. Burd rescues the camera - and finds, too late, that it contained no film. The story is shot through with a brittle sort of vividness, but it makes strange reading. (Nov. 13) $1.25

Rahv, Philip -*Ed.* THE GREAT SHORT NOVELS OF HENRY JAMES Dial

10 complete novels, including two of his best known - *Daisy Miller* and *The Turn of the Screw*, serve as a rather exciting introduction of Henry James to a generation that knows him chiefly as a name. The introduction is definitely a critical introduction, with only partial biographical data, but serves to place James in his contribution to American literature, to stress his value inspirationally in modern writings. Good value. (Nov. 17) $4.00

Greenfield, Louis - *Ed.* MORLEY'S VARIETY Forum Books - World

Three complete novels (*Thunder on the Left, Trojan Horse, Kathleen*); selections from other novels, a number of short stories, essays, poems and plays - a good collection for libraries that cannot afford the full Morley shelf. (Publ.) $1.00

Two January Thrillers

Paul, Elliot I'LL HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING *and* SUNDAY IN DECEMBER Random House

Doubleheader, with Homer Evans (now G 19) leading off with more murderously mad adventures involving a corpse on a transcontinental train trip, the romance of Boston Brahmin Primway and his rich Ferdinanda, Mormons, Indians and a mobster. The never-nonplussed Homer overrides preposterous predicament for a just and happy ending. The second is played straight for a counter-espionage story set in Chile, as Brett Rutledge, professional anti-Fascist, tracks down Nazi activities and infiltration, tabs sympathizers among the natives, saves a vital nitrate supply. Style and local color. (Jan. 15) $2.50 ✓

Coles, Manning GREEN HAZARD Doubleday, Doran

More in the nine lives of unpredictable, indestructible Tommy Hambledon, British Secret Service, who is, against his will, hustled from Switzerland into Germany under the alias of the chemist Professor Ulseth -and once there decides to stay and make trouble. How he gets a Dutchman to assist him in his pseudo. how he is feted by Goebbels and der Fuehrer for his new explosive, how he keeps tabs on the real Ulseth and uses him to plant some explosive cigars in the Admiralty, how he rescues a colleague from a concentration camp, and how - when Goebbels gets insistently suspicious, he stages a giant explosion and his own death, and escapes via Sweden. Airy adventures for not too serious taste in this line. A Crime Club selection. (Jan.29) $2.00

N O N - F I C T I O N

TOPS - FOR THE CAVIAR MARKET

~~January 99~~ pp. 2/13

Wechsberg, Joseph ~~RIER 99~~ LOOKING FOR A BLUE BIRD Houghton, Mifflin

* 21 sketches of a Czechoslovakian seafaring fiddler, who in addition had temporary jobs as a croupier in Nice, a parliamentary secretary in Prague, various odd jobs in Paris in the *boites de nuit*, music halls, etc., who was a member of a notable claque at the opera in Vienna (a claque that helped promote motor cars as well as opera). As entertaining a collection of characters and nationalities as you have met between book covers, with more than a little suggestion of Bemelmans at his best (*Hotel Splendide* era) and a subtle tenderness all his own. They read well in *The New Yorker* and *Colliers* - they stand the test of repeat performance as a book. The personalities range from an Annamite steward to a shy American salesman who had to play tough to impress a Czech customer, to a Negro performer in the *Blackbirds* in Paris. Here are little tubs and big liners viewed through the eyes of the ship's orchestra; here is the technique of making or breaking a performer as a claque delivers its "artistic applause"; here are passengers and tourists and what they mean to the men in the orchestra; pursers and cruise directors and what *they* mean. There are stories of finding a violin in a Djibouti whore house; of a sleepy piano player who found Boston sleeping good; of an American matron getting her comuppance; of musical madness when French veterans cannot be pleased - all in all beautiful confusion that is oddly relevant and logical in its way, providing first rate entertainment, with special appeal for the music-minded. (Script written under H-M fellowship) $2.50

PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - Non-fiction

December ~~1~~ 26

Lewis, Norman HOW TO READ BETTER AND FASTER Crowell

Co-author with Wilfred Funk on the highly successful *30 Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary* - this is a five weeks' course on speeding up your reading. Practical usage of the program should increase comprehension of material, enlarge your vocabulary, expand your "fixation" (the number of words assimilated at each eye pause), eliminate lip reading tendencies, and sharpen intellectual curiosity by stimulating reading in various and more difficult fields. A list of suggested reading is appended. A self-help handbook for which there has been definite need and demand. $2.50

Bailey, Frank IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE AGAIN Knopf

Believing that "excessive taxation and excessive government spending" have ruined all opportunity for the youth of today, Frank Bailey tells the story of how he

made his pile way back when it was possible, using his own experience as an object lesson of unlimited possibility. Granting that the old man's argument has some validity (which we question), there still seems to us small likelihood of interest in his story which is a dull one. Born in 1865 under impecunious circumstances, Frank was fed by his mother's ambitions for him, and went to Union College on a scholarship, earning his expenses during the summers. After graduation, he came to New York, then to Brooklyn, where he became head man of a title company, founded the Bond and Mortgage Company, made money in low cost housing, took part in civic affairs, and set his Alma Mater back on its financial feet. A Horatio Alger success story... which Mr. Bailey confesses to his sorrow might not happen in these sadly different times. $2.00

December 1

Glueck, Prof. Sheldon WAR CRIMINALS: *Their Prosecution and Punishment* Knopf

A legalistic analysis for lawyers - statesmen - rather than for the general reader, as a Professor of the Harvard Law School applies his knowledge of the highly complex mechanism of international law to the equally complex subject of the prosecution of the Nazis after the war. He presents - for consideration - certain problematical factors; what is legitimately a war crime; what type of offense requires national - or international - jurisdiction; is the individual responsible - the subordinate; what type of court may issue judgment; what type of penalty can be imposed? He uses historical data from the last war when six of our 890 accused were convicted at the Leipzig trials. He defines the war criminal - the types of tribunals - the liability of heads of state - the doctrine of act of State used as a defense to acquire immunity for the culprit; the problems of the capture of the accused. Although he believes that large scale extermination is neither desirable nor possible, he does believe that retribution should be imposed first, and therapeutic correction second and only in individual instances. Interesting but limited. $3.00

Ratchford, Fannie - *Ed.* WRENN - WISE CORRESPONDENCE Knopf

The custodian of the rare book collections of the University of Texas has written a masterly introduction (running to some 150 pages) to the selection of letters from the famous correspondence between two great book collectors. She gives what is for bibliophiles a fascinating account of the friendship between the noted English collector who, towards the close of his life, became involved in one of the great scandals of the book world, and the Chicago collector, whose library (now the property of the University of Texas) grew largely as a result of an almost lifelong collaboration. In the course of this introductory material, one is given peaks into the world of book collecting, initiated into some of its basic principles, introduced to some of its members. The letters themselves will be primarily of interest to collectors - but any lover of books and their history will find much of interest and enlightenment in Miss Ratchford's contribution, and her assessing of the aspects of the famous forgery case. $7.50

Garwood, Darrell ARTIST IN IOWA Norton

A friendly, appreciative portrait of Grant Wood both as an artist and a native Iowan. This is the story of his life, rather than aesthetic criticism, though the origins and background of Wood's paintings and other works, the furor of controversy engendered by *American Gothic, Daughters of Revolution, Woman with Plants* etc. is discussed. Iowa born and raised by a widowed mother, in youth he knew a life of few luxuries, he drew early and experimented in metalwork, decorating, constructing of gadgets; he served in the last war; and he found he was winning growing appreciation locally among the people of Cedar Rapids. His friend the undertaker was one of his first appreciators and purchasers; he won prizes in state shows, but it took violent storms of antagonism to bring nationwide fame. This is a detailed story of an

artist's life, - teaching, running a summer school, making and losing friends, marriage and divorce - finally death from cancer. His varied interests, his theories and method of work, make this of general interest. $3.50

January 11

Ruml, Beardsley TOMORROW'S BUSINESS Farrar & Rinehart

The author of the "pay-as-you-go" tax plan here carefully analyzes the part business can play in the survival of freedom for the individual, the nation and the world. He views business as a government with its own set of laws, fitting into and dependent in part upon government itself. He indicates the part of the producer, of labor, of the consumer in attaining balanced economy. He lauds the profit motive and shows how it can decrease costs, increase wages and dividends. He discusses international cartels and shows their dangerous influence on freedom. He gives a nine-point fiscal program on the national budget, taxes, public works, employment, expanded social security, reorganization of the fiscal policy and administration of government. He doesn't seem to fear government in business and even recommends long-term planning of a public works program, and governmental study of the construction business for the purpose of putting it on a sound basis. His philosophizing on freedom in the first few paragraphs make this a somewhat difficult book to get into, but once under way he gets down to the practical application. Should appeal to those who are interested in "tomorrow's business". $2.50

January 15

Young, Barbara THIS MAN FROM LEBANON Knopf

All-kneeling perpetuation of the fame of Kahlil Gibran in a dedicatory portrait of the man and his works by his close friend, collaborator, and worshipful admirer. Notes - in semi-biographical form - interpret further this Lebanese poet-painter - prophet - philosopher, his "vast spiritual vision and dream", his standing among all nations and inspiration to all peoples, his mysticism. There seems to us to be a rather sickening adulation, a sentimentalized spirituality here, almost a "cultism", as she speaks of "heightened vibration" sensed in his presence and immortally preserved in his works....The market is definitely among his followers. $2.50

~~January 18~~ March 24. May 8

Roper, Walter PISTOL AND REVOLVER SHOOTING Macmillan

There's always been - to the layman - a surprising market for books on this subject, and most of these books have been expensive. Now comes this - by a world authority - at a popular price. There's a very brief personal background section, followed by a summary of some rules of the sport, but most of the book follows along lines of factual data on various phases of the subject:- 22 calibre revolver and automatic pistol; center-fire revolver and automatic; American single shot pistol; ammunition; cleaning; accessories; handgun stocks and sights. The last sections deal with matches, rules, ranges, etc. And the chapter on "learning to shoot" - while intended for beginners, has technical information in the way of formulas, etc. that will appeal chiefly to experts. $1.95

~~January 22~~ February 15

Christman, Henry TIN HORNS AND CALICO Holt

Originally reported for Fall publication - P. 419 - as follows:- "Detailed and highly specialized story of the "Anti-Rent Movement" of the farmers around Albany in the middle '80's. The fight of the "tenants", mostly of Dutch descent, against the then existing systems of semi-feudalistic land owning by a few families. This is the story of the long, bitter and often bloody fight waged by the farmers - "Calico

Indians" - for ownership of the land on which they worked and paid taxes - and of their leaders, zealots such as Dr. Boughton and Thomas Aingo Devyr. It became a major political issue in the state. Ambitious research, documents, court records, diaries and letters, to authenticate facts of a miniature civil war in which the farmers won their rights and out of which the Homestead Act stemmed. Regional interest largely - and for those who are fascinated by off-the-record social history of our country. $4.00

~~January 25~~ 3/15

Benet, Stephen Vincent WE STAND UNITED Farrar & Rinehart

A posthumous collection of Benet's radio scripts written about the people - and for the people - during the war years. Honest, homespun, eloquent - propaganda at its best. Included are the title script, *Dear Adolf, Thanksgiving Day, A Time to Reap, They Burned the Books, A Child is Born,* and so forth. Dramatic narrative - in free verse. The market is not only the Benet market, but those interested in the best in radio. (Repeat report from bulletin of 9/15/44). Ill. Ernest Stock $2.50

January 25

Vestal, Stanley THE MISSOURI Farrar & Rinehart

* 26th title in the *Rivers of America* series, and in top brackets for its vitality, enthusiasm and unhackneyed presentation of material. The historical and regional facts are served up without dryness or dullness, and incidents and people have colorful settings in period and background. The river's past and exciting events, its importance as a highway, a boundary and an outpost, the differences of climates, cultures, ways of life, the length and breadth of the river, the curious lore and legend that are part of the river, - all this is made as important as the stories of Indians, explorers, traders, mountain men and plains men, soldiers and cowboys and rivermen. A husky, robust addition to the family. Illustrated by Getlar Smith. $2.50

~~January 28~~ 9 Feb 24

Davis, Maxine WOMAN'S MEDICAL PROBLEMS Whittlesey

For the non-scientific layman, a generalized book about gynecological and obstetrical matters - which is non-presumptious and sound in its information, and advice, and which disposes of a good deal of fiction which is prevalent. Menstruation, pregnancy, after care and complications; miscarriage and abortion (therapeutic and illegal); caesarians; contraception; the rhythm method; sterility and modern treatments thereof; venereal disease; women's diseases; the menopause....Information popularized for a lay public interested in problems common to women. $2.00

~~Late January 99~~ pp. ~~1/28~~ 3/20
Cocks and Bulls in Caracas

Briceno, Olga ~~HOW WE LIVE IN VENEZUELA~~ Houghton, Mifflin

* Feminine and indigenous introduction to Venezuelan life, as the author tells of her family and the way they lived. She emphasizes the old traditions in domestic and social life, what has been dropped and what is still carried over today. She contrasts woman's place, then, with the greater - but still not absolute - freedom now; she underlines the double standard and how it affects marriage and the masculine attitude toward women. Stories of her mother's duties and activities as mistress of the household, her own convent education and its stultifying effect, excursions to the country, courting through the window, her unwitting acceptance of a suitor, the differences between her cousin, conditioned to the traditional way of life and herself, rebelling at restrictions, fighting for - and sometimes given - more latitude - all making entertaining reading. There's pointed criticism of the shortcomings in Venezuelan civilization, - in education, child care, agricultural training, development of natural food resources. National interests, race problems, tourists, good Venezuelan food....An intimate, all-over picture of Venezuelan life, colorful and revealing. $2.~~50~~ 75

~~January 888~~ ~~18~~ 2 - 15

Einstein, Alfred MOZART: *His Character, His Work* Oxford

From letters, source material, a new interpretation of Mozart, from youth to maturity, as artist, musician, man. The first section is devoted to the consideration of Mozart's travels, his genius, religion, patriotism, education, the women in his life; the second part is devoted to his music. It shows the crises in his creativity, his ability to learn, to devise new combinations, new meanings of the pattern already set in music; his relation to other musicians, and the distinction achieved in the field of composition, his accomplishments in expanding existing forms. The text shows his charm as a person, his unfitness to deal with the actualities of life that resulted in a chain of inadequacies throughout life. A clear view of the dominant factors of his life and works that should make this book a worthwhile addition to previous volumes on Mozart. (Repeat report for new publication date - see P. 466 - 10/1) $5.00

Lynd, Helen Merrell ENGLAND IN THE EIGHTEEN - EIGHTIES ~~1 - 25~~ 2 - 15 Oxford

Another postponement from Fall publishing lists - see P. 466. Solidly interesting material - instructive for those applying its interpretations to the omnipresent apprehension for the future here, as the co-author of *Middletown* does a study on a period in England that marked a break with accepted concepts, laws, doctrines, and new approaches to changing problems. Throughout she stresses similarities with problems of our own, stressing the fact that changes in England preceded similar changes in this country by about 50 years. Here are the hows and whys of the changes, why they happened when they did, what particular forms they took, what part institutional or personal intermediaries played. Recorded are the trends - the vitality of new ideas - the dead ends. But the possibility of creation of a positive condition of freedom is scientifically traced in sharp factual accounting. $4.50

Tying Up Loose Ends On Published Material - Late Arrivals.

REPRINTS

World Publishing Company titles for November 16 - Tower & Forum -

Komroff, Manuel - IN THE YEARS OF OUR LORD - Tower - $.49

Hart, Moss - WINGED VICTORY - Forum - $1.00 Hemingway, Ernest - MEN WITHOUT WOMEN-$1.00
Levine, Isaac Don - MITCHELL -Forum - $1.00 Winkler & Bromberg-MIND EXPLORERS - $1.00

New Titles

Hoff, Sydney FEELING NO PAIN Dial

More cartoons - from *The New Yorker, Colliers, Esquire* and some unpublished, showing the Bronx, as "she is lived"...Dependent, chiefly, on their incongruity, there is an element of reality and probability that keeps this from being among the books of sheer zany humor, and the captions serve to underline the merely slight exaggeration of the characters in the drawings. Nothing unkind here - rather improvisations on the themes of family, romantic and social life, with their moments of substantial humor. $2.50

Meyer, Jerome S. THE ABC OF PHYSICS Dial

Today's world functions in terms of mechanical wonders explicable only in terms of physics. Here is a reasonably successful presentation of the subject designed for the layman. Phenomena of nature - biographical sketches in brief of leaders in the realm of science - explanations of the basic principles matter, motion, light,

electronics and the harnessing of electricity so that it works for us. Illustrated with diagrams. Index, $3.50

Crowell, Grace Noll BETWEEN ETERNITIES Harper

An announcement of a new volume of poems by this Texas poet is sufficient guarantee of a substantial sale to an audience that finds her message an uplifting experience. $1.00

Neill, A.S. THE PROBLEM TEACHER International Univ. Press

An English schoolmaster (of *That Dreadful School*) who is a radical, often an extremist, in progressive reform, and psychiatrically trained and inclined, here discusses some of the problems and disabilities of the teacher. He makes a valid, sharp attack on the deadwood of educational methods and matter today, exp osing the problem teacher as the "man who hates the child in himself" - and everyone else - and emerges as a disciplinarian. He exposes the schools as reflections of the state and their politics (basing his cases on English systems primarily); he exposes the lack of creativity in education, sex repression and egotism in the teacher. He stresses the importance of the teacher as a human being, interested in the inner development of the child rather than his class work, and existing on a coequal basis with the child who should neither fear nor respect him - but love him. Interesting and provocative material here - highly individualistic in interpretation - crusading for a democratic way of learning. $2.50

Davis, Hassoldt HALF PAST WHEN Lippincott

Believing in the Fighting French, the author, with many a setback, finally joins them in the Congo, and - not content with simply writing about them, is finally commissioned as an officer to fight with them. There are stories of new recruits, how they came to join up, the dangers they went through to reach their goal; of officers who trained and led them; the many, and varied ways in which they were of help to the Allies, despite obstacles in the way of their being used to best advantage. Here are the fields of action in the Congo, Somaliland, Madagascar, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia - the feeling over the Allied landings in November 1943, the Darlan regime with its U.S. backing; the hazardous lives and intense patriotism of the men, life and death in the desert; Haile Selassie; Davis' blind dog Bill; his efforts to be military, to explain his allegiance to American soldiers; his meeting and interviewing all sorts of people...A very personal war accounting that lacks nothing of absorption in and admiration for the Fighting French, and gives a heartening report of their steadfastness. The text abounds in sketches, - tragic, comic, sometimes vulgar. It is unfortunate that it could not have been published six or eight months earlier, for one feels that it misses the tide of interest, in days when news dates fast. Ill'd. with photographs. $3.00

Stone, Ezra & Melick, Weldon COMING, MAJOR! Lippincott

With line drawings to match by Ray Inman, here are the bright, buoyant and often funny curtain-raising experiences of Ezra Stone in the Army. Upton, where the Army didn't forget Henry Aldrich as quickly as Ezra would have chosen; the erratic, enigmatic procedures of army housekeeping, visitors Sundays, and the kitchen; then Ezra's decision to do something about staging some real shows for the camps, which led to taking *Brother Rat* on tour, roughing it up ad lib from camp to camp. Back again to the home base - the big La Guardia show - and the tour of *This Is The Army*, into the midst of which was injected his marriage and honeymoon on a troop train... Anecdotes and antics which are highspirited and provide exuberant entertainment. $2.00

Anderson, Robert Gordon THE BIOGRAPHY OF A CATHEDRAL Longmans, Green

Steps in history which led up to the building of Notre Dame in Paris - history, religion and art in blend. With a certain eloquence and in elaborate detail, the author traces the history, secular and sacred, architecture, sacrament, legend, sculpture and symbolism, incorporated in the making of a great cathedral. He goes back to 52 B.C. and the defense of that spot which later became Paris from the Romans, then on to the building of the Temple of Jupiter; the coming of Christianity and its spread across Europe, the building of a Christian church, St. Etienne; the vestments, services, divine dramas of the period; the fall of the Roman Empire and the story of Genevieve, who became Our Lady of Paris; the religious orders of the middle ages; the defense of Paris in successive wars; the crusades; Abelard and Heloise; and finally the building of the cathedral that was to replace St. Etienne - Notre Dame. Artisans and artists came from everywhere to create its gargoyles and glass, its sculpture and design...A book that is given impetus by the reoccupation of Paris and the revival of interest in her historic monuments....The only other book which I recall and which overlaps in certain respects was Sartell Prentice fascinating *The Heritage of the Cathedral*, published by Morrow in 1936...One regrets in this new book the absence of illustration. $4.00

Ziff, William B. THE GENTLEMEN TALK OF PEACE Macmillan

Ziff argues that a more realistic approach to the basic problems of the world is essential before peace can be achieved. He proceeds to analyze the situation in which the major countries find themselves, problems of adjusting aging forms of society to new needs. He sees governments forced to enter business - collectivism inevitably spreading - obsolete political systems collapsing. He shows how only radical action can serve if we are to avoid chaos ahead. He surveys various treaties, pacts, coalitions; he discusses panaceas for peace and the barriers to world federation, world policing, world government and their advocates. He appraises the various methods suggested for dealing with our defeated enemies, claiming that Japan is a simple problem compared with Germany. But his main thesis is concerned with the argument in favor of a five part world, each section composed of Federated Power Aggregates, loosely joined into a world order, each a self-sustaining unit, which would eliminate cause for friction (he assumes internal peaceful settlement, but does not indicate the how and whens). 1- U.S.S.R.; 2- United Orient; 3- United Europe, including the shores of the Mediterranean; 4- Mandated Africa - until such time as Africa can handle its own problems; 5- Union of the West (to include the British Isles and the continents of Australia and New Zealand along with Americas, North and South....Ziff argues his case with less than the conviction of his *Coming Battle of Germany*. But any presentation, honestly projected, which opens our eyes to the intricacy of the problems ahead serves to stimulate further discussion and awakened interest. (11/28) $3.00

Cairns, Huntington & Walker, John - *Eds.* MASTERPIECES OF PAINTING *from The National Gallery of Art* Random House

** This is the art book of the season - and nothing was available in advance for report. But don't miss it. 85 color plates of masterpieces in the National Gallery in Washington, with interpretative passages from literary classics. Through careful selection, the editors have told the story of Western art from the 13th century to the modern, - from Giotto and Botticelli to Cezanne and Renoir,; while the text matter includes such authors as Henry Adams, Santayana, Henry James, Proust, D.H. Lawrence, and so on. The format is excellent - color reproduction extraordinarily faithful to the original, in almost all cases. Brief introduction by David J. Finley, Director. $6.50

Duncan, Kunigunde & Nickols, D.F. MENTOR GRAHAM Univ. of Chicago

Minor Lincolniana - and a portrait of a period and a region, with considerable rustic detail and charm, in this biography of Lincoln's teacher in New Salem, Illinois. Here is pioneer Kentucky and Illinois - Mentor's upbringing in the Baptist hellfire and blab schools of the day, hard palms and hard work for a childhood which ended quickly. Serious, industrious, gentle, Mentor early revealed his love of learning, taught himself with the few books he could ill afford to buy - and married, in the custom of the region, before he was turned 16, Sarah, who was 13. Frequent pregnancies and miscarriages and deaths made Sarah harsh and quick of tongue, unsympathetic with Mentor's ambitions, until he gained in stature and recognition as a teacher. They moved to New Salem, Illinois, and she accepted life there. And there young Abe became Mentor's best pupil and close friend. His teacher's staunch support during his formative years and his march to fame - followed by sorrow with Lincoln's untimely death marked the pattern of subsequent years. The text was based on research among friends and family - for history contributes little to go on. Primarily a portrait of a disciplined, lovable teacher. $3.75

Earhart, Mary FRANCES WILLARD *From Prayers to Politics* Univ. of Chicago

A conscientious, detailed and objective biography of the leaders not only of the temperance movement but the "general" of the whole woman's movement. A cold if compelling figure, her personality fails to inspire the biographer to more than an interesting presentation of her achievements. Reared in a strict puritanical background, with scant looks or social grace, Frances determined early to compensate for her awkwardness by doing something useful with her life. From teaching in rural schoolrooms, she went on to be the first dean of the new Northwestern College for Women; later she left to become first National Secretary, then President of the W.C.T.U. She crusaded for suffrage; she entered "gospel politics"; she was an exponent of pacifism, socialism, spiritualism, labor unionism, and figured in all kinds of women's organizations. Reformer, orator, organizer, she opened the way for women and liberal measures on many fields, and was a tireless executive. A thorough, capable biography. $3.75

Daniels, Josephus THE WILSON ERA: *Years of Peace - 1910 - 1917* Univ. of N. Carolina

Third volume of the memoirs of Wilson's Secretary of the Navy - in which we are introduced to world figures, at the early stages of their careers. In view of the freshened interest in Wilson as a human being, this should reach a wider market than the earlier volumes, for Wilson really emerges as a warmer, more vital personality than in most presentations. More important, perhaps, than the human facets of the picture is the light thrown on some of the controversial issues of the Wilson campaign and election, the problems of Mexican intervention, of Haiti, of the purchase of the Virgin Islands, of "watchful waiting", of the "New Freedom", of progressive legislation in tariff and tax and currency reform, and of the march towards war. Daniels himself is kept in the background, even in the chapters devoted to streamlining our antiquated navy. Not an inspired autobiography, but a revealing portrait of a period that in many ways parallels years not far past. (11/18) $4.00

Mardikian, George DINNER AT OMAR KHAYYAM'S Viking

Mardikian is an institution in San Francisco. No visit there is complete without a meal in his famous restaurant - and it is a lost opportunity if you don't meet the great chef himself. This book is partly autobiography - partly reminiscences of San Francisco - and largely recipes of specialties not only of Omar Khayyam's but of eastern dishes known to too few American housewives, but perfectly practicable, even in many cases - in these rationed days. Particularly appealing are some of the suggestions for using meats in unusual ways, which make possible a de luxe flavor for cuts that can be found. An off-the-track cookbook. $2.75

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLES, DATE AND PRICE

	Page
Appleton-Century	
Grayson, A.B. - DO YOU KNOW YOUR DAUGHTER - postponed to 11/20	391
Lanks, H.C. - HIGHWAY TO ALASKA - postponed to 11/20	361
Walters, M.O. - Ed. - COMBAT IN THE AIR - from 11/13 to 11/20	463
Doubleday, Doran	
Hahn, Emily, - CHINA TO ME - from 11/22 to 11/16 (C)	472
Duell, Sloan & Pearce	
Mabon, M.F. - A MEAL IN ITSELF - definite date 11/16	466
Farrar & Rinehart	
Hills, A. - SOUL OF AMBER - from 11/9 to 11/23	337
Karig & Kelley - BATTLE REPORT - from 11/23 to 12/7. Note change of price to $3.50	465
Lippincott	
Brines, R. - UNTIL THEY EAT STONES - postponed to 12/27	392
Oxford	
Einstein, Alfred - MOZART - from 11/? to 1/?	466
Lynd, H.M. - ENGLAND IN THE EIGHTEEN-EIGHTIES - from 11/? to 1/?	466
Ziff-Davis	
Butler, G.P. - Ed. - BEST SERMONS - postponed to late December. Note change of price from $3.50 to $3.00	507

BULLETIN from

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service & 38 Bank Street

December 1, 1944

LOOKING BACKWARDS - Postscripts on Previews

This is by way of recapitulation and confession - primarily - but we feel the need to remind ourselves and our subscribers that, while our batting average is high, we aren't always right, and shouldn't be considered omniscient. We are just as human and fallible as other reviewers; we simply have less at stake from a purely literary angle and more at stake commercially (unsold books which we've recommended are constant reminders that we can be wrong), so we try to keep our personal biases out and our critical objectivity in - with a reasonably healthy result.

Picking "Must Books" (incidentally, did you know that we first perpetrated that now hackneyed phrase?) - is easy. Anyone knows that a new Hervey Allen, Louis Bromfield, Somerset Maugham, John Gunther, Thomas Mann, Walter Lippmann, A. J. Cronin or Ernie Pyle will sell - and sell in big figures. We do take a certain satisfaction in the fact that we promoted certain authors - hitherto unpredictable - to the Must Book category, among them John Hersey with A Bell for Adáno, H. E. Bates with Fair Stood the Wind for France, Margaret Landon and Anna and the King of Siam, Gwethalyn Graham for Earth and High Heaven, Zofia Kossak with Blessed Are the Meek, Sumner Welles and A Time for Decision. Oh yes, we picked Forever Amber too - but we aren't proud of it. We are proud, however, of choosing Strange Fruit as a potential Best Seller.

What were some of our mistakes? We thought Anne Lindbergh's The Steep Ascent would override the feeling caused by Wave of the Future. It didn't. We picked War Below Zero, by Balchen, Ford and La Farge as one of the superior news stories of the war. Apparently, it was too late. We completely missed the possibilities of big sales on Aldous Huxley's Time Must Have a Stop, reporting it for "only a critical, intellectual audience". We indicated the possibility of The History of Rome Hanks proving a sensation - but with a warning note. We thought James Street's By Valour and Arms "the least successful of his sagas of the South". We started our report on Edgar Snow's People On Our Side with "I'd like to think this could be a Must Book", - but we did not have the courage of our convictions, and it took the Book of the Month selection to make our wish come true! We missed the boat in reporting Russell Davenport's My Country as "chauvinistic verse - laudable sentiments" etc. (In retrospect, the emotional qualities of the poem seem more sincerely rooted than a first reading indicated.)

We picked as real possibilities - and results have not confirmed us - Gene Coughlin's really funny Assistant Hero. (We stubbornly maintain that it should contribute to more and better laughs.) We liked Mom Counted Six, by Mac Gardner - thought it one of the best first novels of the season. We found George Milton's The Use of Presidential Power "unflagging in interest, challenging in implication -- one of the most fascinating books of the spring season".

And we are picking as our candidates for the month ahead Marguerite Bayliss' The Bolinvar's (see P. 455); Jan Karski's Story Of a Secret State (see P.414); John Steinbeck's Cannery Row (see P. 484); Samuel Shellabarger's Captain from Castile (see P. 485); Anything Can Happen by the Papashvily's (see P. 485) - and a dark horse, for those seeking something out of the groove, in Florence Lennon's Victoria Through The Looking Glass (see P. 492). We are still willing to go out on a limb!

The two pages following list our pick of 100 books for holiday selling - and after. Posted in a convenient place, this list may help orientate staff and customers during the Christmas rush.

One Hundred Titles for Holiday Sales - A Balanced Ration

The War in Fiction

A WALK IN THE SUN by Harry Brown.
THEY DREAM OF HOME by Niven Busch.
ISLAND IN THE SKY by Ernest K. Gann.
A BELL FOR ADANO by John Hersey.
PASTORAL by Nevil Shute.
VALLEY OF THE SKY by Hobart D. Skidmore.

Historical & Regional Novels

THE BOLINVARS by Marguerite Bayliss.
YOUNG 'UN by Herbert Best.
RIDE WITH ME by Thomas B. Costain.
FREEDOM ROAD by Howard Fast.
GREEN DOLPHIN STREET by Elizabeth Goudge.
FOREVER AMBER by Kathleen Winsor.

Readers' Choice in Fiction

THE WINDS OF FEAR by Hodding Carter.
EARTH AND HIGH HEAVEN by Gwethalyn Graham.
TIME MUST HAVE A STOP by Aldous Huxley.
THE RAZOR'S EDGE by Somerset Maugham.
THE LEANING TOWER by Katherine Anne Porter.
STRANGE FRUIT by Lillian Smith.

In Lighter Vein

WE RIDE A WHITE DONKEY by George Panetta.
CRYING AT THE LOCK by Adeline Rumsey.
THE UNREADY HEART by Richard Sherman.
LOST IN THE HORSE LATITUDES by H. Allen Smith.
ABSENT IN THE SPRING by Mary Westmacott.
NONE BUT A MULE by Barbara Woollcott.

Off The Beaten Track

A TREASURY OF AMERICAN FOLKLORE.
ASSISTANT HERO by Gene Coughlin.
LOCK, STOCK & BARREL by the Rigbys.
THE LETTERS OF ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT.
SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS ARE SOLDIERS by Margaret Halsey.

Biography

YANKEE FROM OLYMPUS by Catherine Bowen.
ESME OF PARIS by Esme Davis.
LEE'S LIEUTENANTS: Vol. 3 by D.S. Freeman
PHILADELPHIA LAWYER by G. W. Pepper.
PERSONS AND PLACES by George Santayana.
IMMORTAL WIFE by Irving Stone.

People and Places

WIND IN THE SAHARA by R. V. C. Bodley.
THE AMERICAN CHARACTER by D. W. Brogan.
ONE DAY ON BEETLE ROCK by Sally Carrighar.
CHINA TO ME by Emily Hahn.
ANNA & THE KING OF SIAM by Margaret Landon.
PALESTINE by W. C. Lowdermilk.

Backgrounds of History

U.S.S.R. by Walter Duranty
SO SORRY, NO PEACE by R. A. Gunnison.
FROM THE VOLGA TO THE YUKON by D. Henderson.
USE OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER by G. F. Milton.
GRAVEDIGGERS OF FRANCE by "Pertinax"
PEOPLE ON OUR SIDE by Edgar Snow.
WHEN JOHNNY COMES MARCHING HOME - Wecter.
THE TIME FOR DECISION by Sumner Welles.

Total War

WAR BELOW ZERO by Balchen, Ford, LaFarge.
ARTIST AT WAR by George Biddle.
FLIGHT TO EVERYWHERE by Ivan Dmitri.
STORY OF A SECRET STATE by Jan Karski.
WHERE AWAY by Perry & Leighton.
BRAVE MEN by Ernie Pyle.

On the Home Front

400 SALADS by Cowles & Harris
FRUITS FOR THE HOME GARDEN by U. P. Hedrick.
ENJOY YOUR HOUSE PLANTS by Jenkins & Wilson.
MEN IN APRONS by L. A. Keating.
JOURNEY THROUGH CHAOS by Agnes Meyer.
ALL ABOUT FEEDING YOUR CHILDREN by M.J.E. Senn & P. Newill.

Religion - Philosophy - Science - The Arts

AND NOW TO LIVE AGAIN by Betsey Barton.
THE BIBLE AND THE COMMON READER by M. E. Chase.
THE CHRIST OF THE AMERICAN ROAD by E. Stanley-Jones.
THE WAY by J. M. Hartley.
BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, by Zofia Kossak.
THE SHAPE OF BOOKS TO COME by J.D. Adams
THE SUMMER LANDSCAPE by Rolfe Humphries
MY COUNTRY by Russell Davenport.
PRIMER OF AMERICAN ANTIQUES by C. Drepperd
THE PACIFIC WORLD ed. by Fairfield Osborn.
MASTERPIECES OF PAINTING ed. by Cairns & Walker.

Hand Picked Among the Juveniles

Up to Eight

WHAT MIRANDA KNEW by Gladys Adshead.
GEORGIE by Robert Bright.
PRAYER FOR A CHILD by Rachel Field.
THE LAVENDER CAT by Janette Lowrey.

Nine to Twelve

GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES - New Edition
THE HUNDRED DRESSES by Eleanor Estes.
THE SHOO FLY PIE by Mildred Jordan.
SKY RIDE by Katherine Pollock.
THE CHRISTMAS ANNA ANGEL by Ruth Sawyer.
MAYFLOWER BOY by Stanley Young.
CHILDREN'S PICTURE COOKBOOK by M. Gossett.
THIS IS THE WORLD by Josephine Pease.
SING FOR AMERICA by Opal Wheeler.

Twelve and Up

BARNEY'S BARGES by Don Aspden.
THREE AND A PIGEON by Kitty Barne.
FORWARD COMMANDOS by Margery Bianco.
ISLAND ON THE BEAM by J. Blackstock.
THE SILVER PENCIL by Alice Dalgliesh.
PIERRE KEEPS WATCH by Maria Gleit.
NORTHERN TRAIL ADVENTURE by W. Lathrop.
HANNIBAL'S ELEPHANTS by Alfred Powers.
FOX FIRE by Gertrude Robinson.
STORM CANVAS by Armstrong Sperry.
YEA, WILDCATS! by John Tunis.
STANLEY'S AFRICA by R. Busoni.
PEOPLES OF THE U.S.S.R. by A. L. Strong
RAYMOND L. DITMARS by Laura Wood.